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Three strikes you're out: Grothman calls for EPA administrator's resignation

By [M.D. Kittle](#) / August 13, 2015 / [No Comments](#)

By M.D. Kittle | Wisconsin Watchdog

MADISON, Wisconsin — U.S. Rep. [Glenn Grothman](#) is calling on [Environmental Protection Agency](#) Administrator [Gina McCarthy](#) to resign, after what he calls McCarthy's third outrage this year. McCarthy's "third strike," according to the Campbellsport Republican, is the EPA's massive failure last week that led to [release of some 3 million gallons of contaminated water into Colorado's Animas River](#).

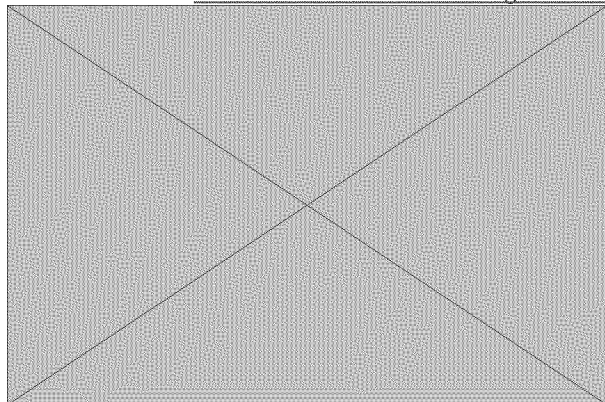


Photo by AP

'IT PAINS ME': EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy talks to an environmental group about her agency's dam breach that released millions of gallons of contaminants into a Colorado river.

Contractors working for the agency accidentally breached a dam at the Gold King Mine. The toxic mine sludge has now spread to New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, and the pollution continues to pour into the river.

McCarthy this week said the failure "pains me to no end."

"It is really a tragic and very unfortunate incident, and EPA is taking responsibility to ensure that the spill is cleaned up," she told attendees at an event sponsored by [Resources For the Future](#), a Washington energy and environmental research group. "It pains me to no end that this is happening. But we're working tirelessly to respond, and we've committed to a full review of exactly what happened to ensure it can never happen again."

What is tragic, Grothman said, is the incompetency and hypocrisy of an agency that has been extremely hard on businesses that run afoul of increasingly restrictive EPA rules.

"If the EPA was a private business they would face financial ruin and maybe criminal penalties.

Nevertheless, when the EPA causes far more pollution than many private sector errors it seems like no big deal," the freshman representative said in a statement.

The impact of the breach is hitting Animas River businesses hard.

Drew Beezley, co-owner of 4 Corners Whitewater in Durango told the Associated Press on Monday his company has cancelled 20 rafting trips on the river so far. Beezely said he has lost about \$10,000 worth of business since the spill and that his 12 employees are now out of work.

Grothman said the dam breach is just the latest in high-profile EPA failures.

The congressman pointed to news earlier this year that agency employees were caught watching hours of porn while on the job. EPA investigators say one employee allegedly downloaded more than 7,000 files of pornography on a government computer and watched the video two to six hours per day.

And the agency has been dogged by questions involving its new ozone standards, set for release in October. The proposal, critics say, could be the most expensive regulation in U.S. history, with costs for compliance reaching as high as \$10 billion a year.

“Gina McCarthy’s leadership has been nothing but toxic, not only for businesses, but also for our nation’s natural resources,” Grothman said. “The mismanagement at the EPA ... has gone on for too long. That is why I’m calling for her resignation. It’s time for Gina McCarthy to step down and the EPA to clean up their act.”

President Obama’s spokespeople have referred all questions on the spill to the EPA.